PROGRAM TITLE: EXPANSION EQUIPMENT TAILORING STUDIES

OBJECTIVE: Design expansion methods and equipment specifically tailored to yield best product characteristics.

PROGRAM APPROACH AND TIMING:

A.	Investigate the exact effect of heating rate profiles on expansion levels of ET, DIET and ES using the static bed unit, the 4" tower tangential separator installation, and an experimental "profiled" radiant lamp installation. Apply findings to the design of expansion equipment specifically tailored for best product characteristics.	4th Qtr.
B.	Investigate process requirements and develop best non-tower expansion process using experimental input gained above as applied to vibrating conveyor/fluidized bed technology, new application techniques for radiant energy, or other process methods.	4th Qtr.
C.	Conduct thorough investigation and re-evaluation on the use of radiant energy to accomplish expansion of tobacco with minimum product breakage; evaluate throughput capacity of existing Sandvik belt unit for radiant expansion and PEHT processing; investigate water spray reordering of radiant-expanded tobacco; establish current economic and processing feasibility using a radiant system and make appropriate recommendations.	4th Qtr.
D.	Study the mechanisms by which tobacco is expanded and "set" by the various processes to better understand the processes and gain insight and direction for new expansion and PEHT techniques.	Continuing

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